Oil Spill Response and Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA)



Gina Muhs Saizan Natural Resource Specialist Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office

The Purpose of NRDA is to

RESTORE the ENVIRONMENT

Make the public whole for injuries to natural resources and services resulting from an oil spill.

Accomplished by the return of the injured resources to baseline and compensation for interim losses from the date of the oil spill until resources are recovered.

3 PHASES OF NRDA

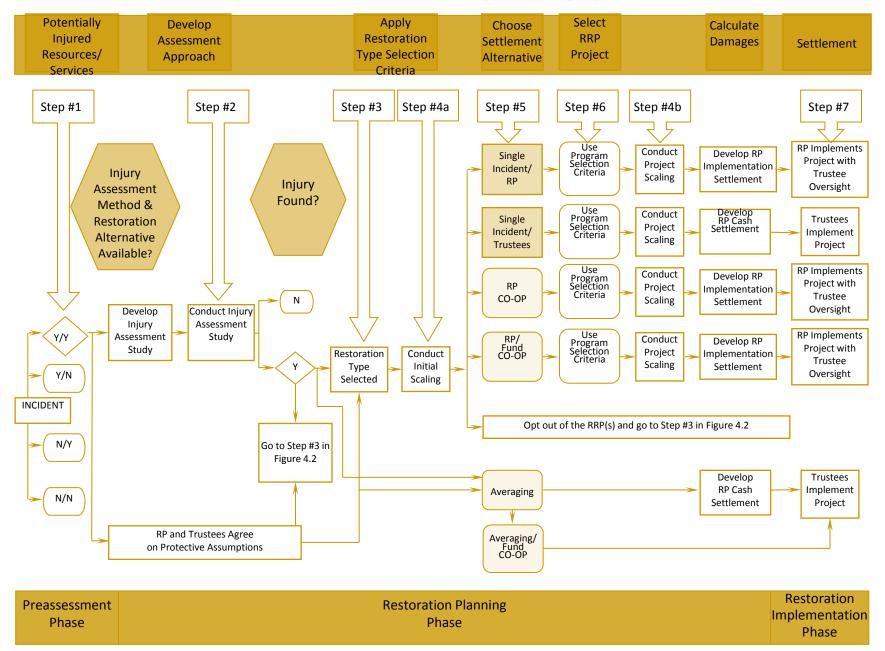
Preassessment

Restoration Planning

(Includes Injury Assessment and Planning for Restoration)

Restoration Implementation

NRDA PROCESS



NRDA PROCESS

- Identify Injured Natural Resources
 Habitat, Sediments, Water Column, Wildlife, Birds, and Recreational Uses
- Invite the RP to Participate
- Develop Injury Assessment Approach
- Quantify Injury
- Find, Select, Scale Restoration Project(s)
- Present Claim to RP or Oil Spill Fund/Court
- Implement and Monitor Project for Success

IMH - Chapter 4

Best Response = Successful Response

Key Driver: Natural Environment

- **✓ Source Secured**
- ✓ Product Contained
- ✓ Sensitive Areas Protected
- √ Resource Damage Minimized

RESPONSE and NRDA on Parallel Track because DATA NEEDS are SIMILAR

Response

DATA NEEDS ARE SIMILAR

NRDA

Source

Location

Protection

Samples for fingerprinting

Source

Location

Protection

 Samples for toxicity and weathering

DATA NEEDS ARE SIMILAR

Containment

Recoverable oil

 Recovered oil (bbls, yds³ of debris, etc.) Collection areas

Degree of oiling

 How much oil is left in the environment and how much biological material removed

DATA NEEDS ARE SIMILAR

 What needs to be cleaned up

How to clean it

NRDA

 Are there impacts to wildlife, vegetation, sediments, aquatic organisms

People,
 equipment, ISB,
 dispersants, cut
 vegetation, etc.

Response

DATA NEEDS ARE SIMILAR

NRDA

Demob and maintenance

Remediation

 Mitigation under CUP or EUA Duration of impacts

Receive Sample
 Information

 Will RP be required to perform work at the impacted area?

DATA NEEDS ARE SIMILAR

Landowner requirements

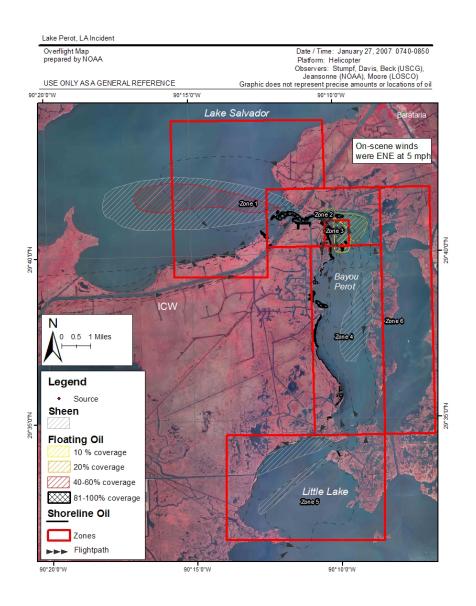
Passive maintenance

NRDA

 Will landowner require any projects at the spill site?

Long term monitoring

Examples of Data

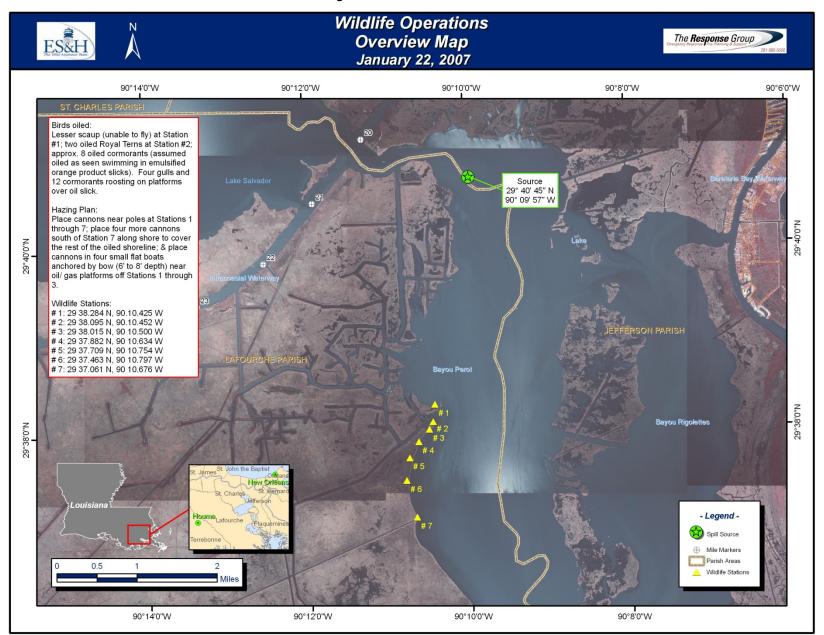




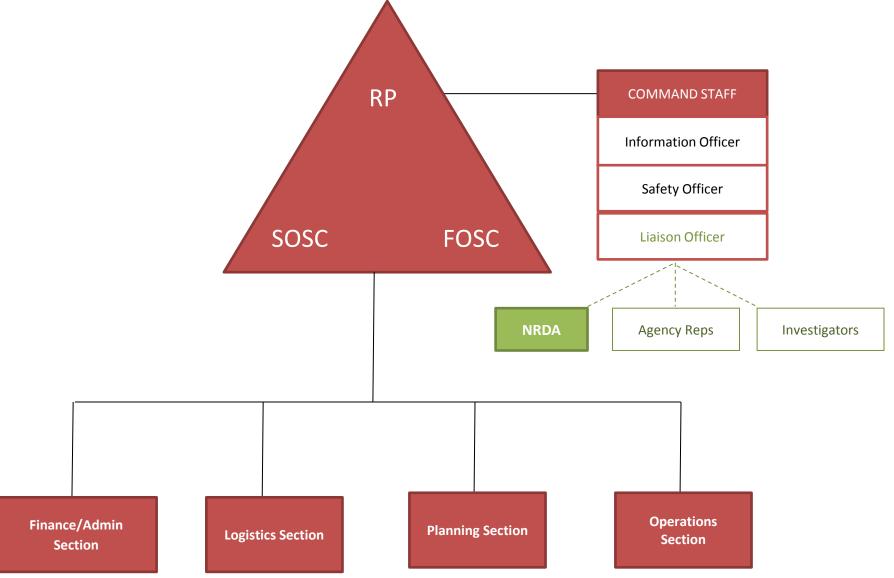
Examples of Data



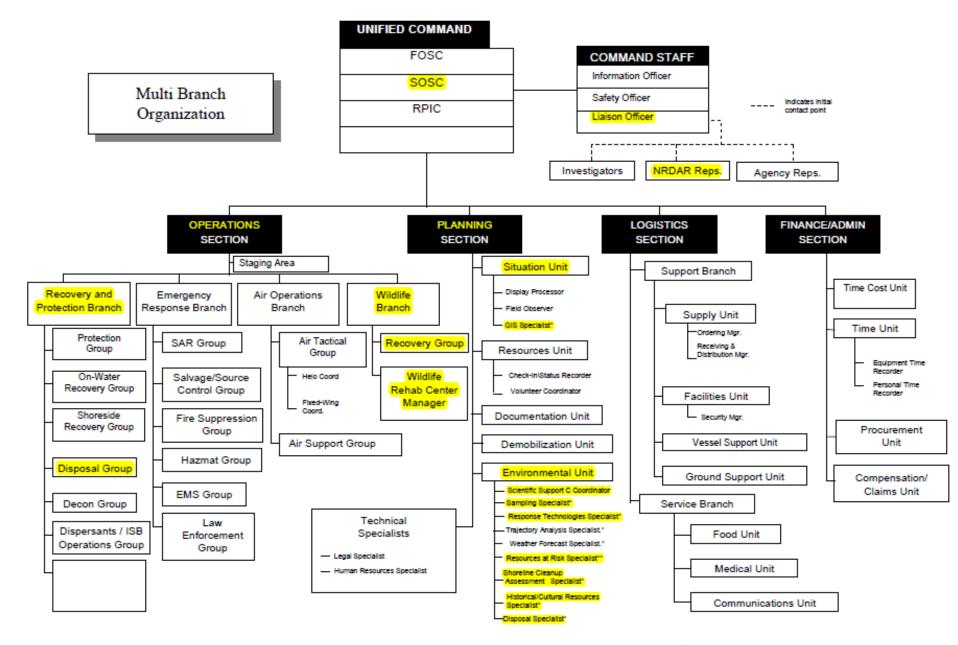
Examples of Data



Where is NRDA during Response?



Incident Command System



^{*} Recommended Possible Assignment of Technical Specialists

NRDA DATA FROM RESPONSE

IAPs

- 202 Objectives
- 204A Special Environmental Considerations
- 209 Incident Status Summary
- 215 Wildlife Branch and/or SCAT
- 232/232a Environmentally Sensitive/Wildlife Issues
- Waste Disposal Plan
- Cleanup End Points
- Etc.

SUCCESSFUL NRDA

Response and NRDA must communicate and coordinate!

NRDA Needs Response Data

Restore the Environment

Questions?

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